

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

**Water-Quality Data for
Navajo National Monument,
Northeastern Arizona—2001–02**

Open-File Report 03—287

Prepared in cooperation with the NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Report Documentation Page				Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188	
Public reporting burden for the collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington VA 22202-4302. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to a penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number.					
1. REPORT DATE 2003		2. REPORT TYPE N/A		3. DATES COVERED -	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Water-Quality Data for Navajo National Monument, Northeastern Arizona-2001-02				5a. CONTRACT NUMBER	
				5b. GRANT NUMBER	
				5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER	
6. AUTHOR(S)				5d. PROJECT NUMBER	
				5e. TASK NUMBER	
				5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) U.S. Department of the Interior U.S. Geological Survey 1849 C. Street, NW Washington, DC 20240				8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)				10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)	
				11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)	
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release, distribution unlimited					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES The original document contains color images.					
14. ABSTRACT					
15. SUBJECT TERMS					
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT UU	18. NUMBER OF PAGES 18	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
a. REPORT unclassified	b. ABSTRACT unclassified	c. THIS PAGE unclassified			

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By Blakemore E. Thomas

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Tucson, Arizona
2003

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GALE A. NORTON, Secretary

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
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CONVERSION FACTORS AND DATUMS

Multiply	By	To obtain
inch (in)	2.54	centimeter
inch (in)	25.4	millimeter
foot (ft)	0.3048	meter
mile (mi)	1.609	kilometer
square mile (mi ²)	2.590	square kilometer
acre-foot (acre-ft)	0.001233	cubic hectometer
cubic foot per second (ft ³ /s)	0.02832	cubic meter per second
gallon per minute (gal/min)	0.06309	liter per second
gallon per day (gal/d)	0.003785	cubic meter per day

Temperature in degrees Celsius (°C) may be converted to degrees Fahrenheit (°F) as follows:

$$^{\circ}\text{F}=(1.8^{\circ}\text{C})+32$$

Vertical coordinate information is referenced to the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD 29)—a geodetic datum derived from a general adjustment of the first-order level nets of both the United States and Canada, formerly called Sea Level Datum of 1929; horizontal coordinate information is referenced to the North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27). **Altitude**, as used in this report, refers to distance above or below NGVD 29.

ABBREVIATED WATER-QUALITY UNITS

Chemical concentration and water temperature are given only in metric units. Chemical concentration in water is given in milligrams per liter (mg/L) or micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$). Milligrams per liter is a unit expressing the solute mass (milligrams) per unit volume (liter) of water. One thousand micrograms per liter is equivalent to 1 milligram per liter. For concentrations lower than 7,000 milligrams per liter, the numerical value is about the same as for concentrations in parts per million. Specific conductance is given in microsiemens per centimeter at 25 degrees Celsius ($\mu\text{S/cm}$ at 25°C).

Water-Quality Data for Navajo National Monument, Northeastern Arizona—2001–02

By Blakemore E. Thomas

Abstract

Water-quality data are provided for six sites in Navajo National Monument in northeastern Arizona. These data describe the current water quality and provide baseline water-quality information for monitoring future trends.

Water samples were collected from six sites near three ancient Indian ruins during September 2001 to August 2002. Two springs and one well are near Betatakin Ruin, one spring is near Keet Seel Ruin, and one spring and one stream are near Inscription House Ruin. Water from all the sites is from the N aquifer, a regional sandstone aquifer that is the source of drinking water for most members of the Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe in northeastern Arizona.

Concentrations of dissolved solids, major ions, trace elements, and uranium were low at the six sites. Dissolved-solids concentration ranged from 94 to 221 milligrams per liter. Concentrations of dissolved nitrate (as nitrogen) were generally low (less than 0.05 to 0.92 milligrams per liter) and were within the range of concentrations at other N-aquifer sites within 20 miles of the study area. Water samples from Inscription House Spring, Navajo Creek Tributary (near Inscription House Ruin), and Keet Seel Ruin Spring contained indicators of human or animal wastes—fecal coliform and *Escherichia coli* bacteria.

INTRODUCTION

In 1992, the National Park Service established a nationwide Level 1 Water Quality Inventory and Monitoring Program to obtain baseline water-quality information and to assess possible water-quality problems in national parks and monuments throughout the United States. Key water bodies are identified that are essential to the cultural, historical, or natural resource management themes or that provide habitats for threatened or endangered plants and animals. The basic chemical character and possible water-quality problems of the water bodies are described through the collection and analysis of water samples and assessment of the chemical data. In 2001, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), in cooperation with the National Park Service, began studies of Navajo, Walnut Canyon, and Wupatki National Monuments in

northeastern Arizona as part of this Level I program. This report describes results of a water-quality inventory of Navajo National Monument ([fig. 1](#)).

Navajo National Monument was established in 1909 to protect and preserve three ancient Indian ruins that were occupied from about 1250 to 1300. In addition to the ruins, the monument is required to protect the area's natural resources. The water resources of the monument are used for public drinking-water supply and to support the natural plant and animal populations. Monument employees have a need for a better understanding of the quality of water resources for effective and informed management of visitor use and natural-resource protection. With the exception of a public-supply well, there are no historical water-quality data sites within the monument, and little is known about water quality in the area.

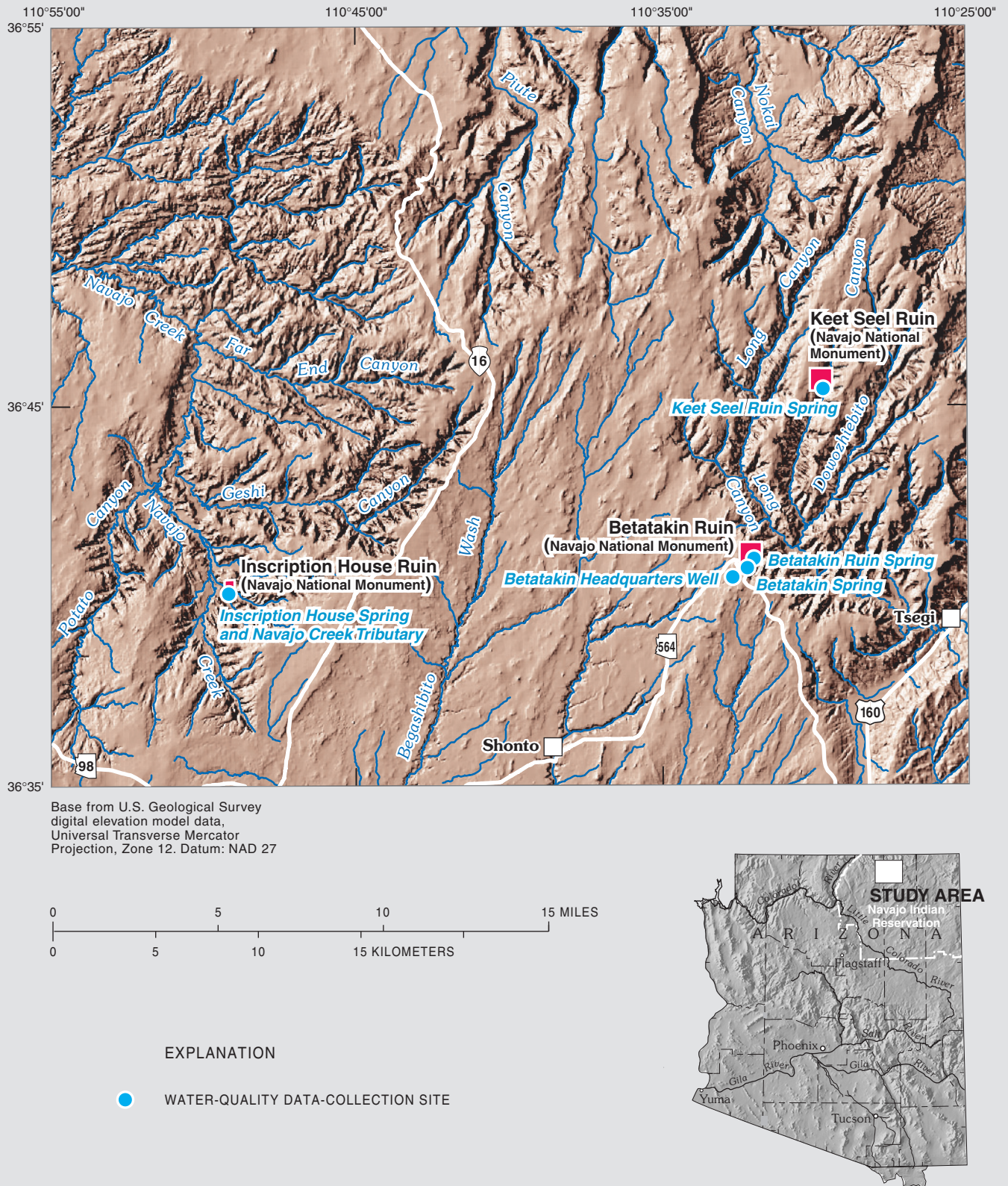


Figure 1. Locations of Navajo Monument and water-quality data-collection sites.

The objectives of this water-quality inventory of Navajo National Monument were to identify the key water bodies in the monument, to describe the current water-quality conditions, and to assess possible water-quality problems. Water samples were collected from six sites during September 2001 to August 2002. These samples were analyzed for general chemical characteristics and constituents that can be indicators of water-quality problems.

The headquarters of Navajo National Monument is near Betatakin Ruin. Keet Seel Ruin is about 5 miles northeast of Betatakin Ruin, and Inscription House Ruin is about 16 miles west of Betatakin. Three separate monument areas enclose the ruins ([fig. 1](#)). The monument area at Betatakin Ruin is 0.25 square mile and ranges in altitude from 6,500 to 7,300 ft. The monument area at Keet Seel Ruin is 0.25 square mile and ranges in altitude from 6,700 to 7,500 ft ([fig. 1](#)). The monument area at Inscription House Ruin is 0.0625 square mile and ranges in altitude from 5,400 to 5,900 ft ([fig. 1](#)). The three ruins are in canyons that are deeply incised into horizontal layers of sandstone and siltstone.

The general area of the ruins has an arid climate. Precipitation falls mostly as snow in the winter and as rain during the other seasons. Average annual precipitation ranges from about 10 inches at Inscription House Ruin to 12 inches at the monument headquarters at Betatakin (U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1999). Precipitation is spread fairly evenly throughout the four seasons; about 20 percent falls in the spring and about 30 percent falls in the summer (Western Regional Climate Center, Desert Research Institute, 2002). Frontal storms move through the area in the fall, winter, and spring. Thunderstorms are common in the summer. Most of the vegetation is piñon and juniper trees; greasewood and sagebrush are found in altitudes below 5,500 ft.

Important water bodies in the monument include ground water, springs, and perennial and intermittent streams. Ground water is used for drinking water by monument employees and visitors. Springs and streams provide important habitat for plants and animals and drinking water for stock and wild animals. In addition to the current importance to the water resources of the monument, the springs and streams also were the source of drinking and irrigation water for the ancient inhabitants of the area in the 1200s.

Six key water bodies or sample sites were identified in Navajo National Monument ([table 1](#); [fig. 1](#)):

1. Spring near Inscription House Ruin (Inscription House Spring),
2. Stream near Inscription House Ruin (Navajo Creek tributary near Shonto),
3. Betatakin headquarters well,
4. Spring near Betatakin Ruin (Betatakin Spring),
5. Spring at Betatakin Ruin (Betatakin Ruin Spring), and
6. Spring near Keet Seel Ruin (Keet Seel Ruin Spring).

Inscription House Spring and Navajo Creek tributary near Shonto are at the southern boundary of the monument at an altitude of about 5,440 ft. The spring flows out of the Navajo Sandstone and into the stream (Davis and others, 1963). The stream has a drainage area of about 1.5 mi², flows east to west, and enters Navajo Creek, which then flows northward into Lake Powell. Several springs that are east and upstream of Inscription House Ruin contribute water to the stream.

The Betatakin headquarters well is at an altitude of about 7,230 ft and is about 1,500 ft southwest of the headquarters. Betatakin Spring is at an altitude of about 6,800 ft and is about 2,000 ft southwest of Betatakin Ruin. Betatakin Ruin Spring is at an altitude of about 6,600 ft and is about 500 ft southeast of the ruin. Keet Seel Ruin Spring is at an altitude of about 6,700 ft and is at the northern end of the ruin's base.

The four springs and well discharge water from the N aquifer (Davis and others, 1963). Navajo Creek tributary receives ground-water discharge from the N aquifer and runoff from rainfall and snowmelt. The N aquifer is a regional sandstone aquifer that extends for more than 6,000 mi² in northeastern Arizona, and is the source of drinking water for most members of the Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe in northeastern Arizona (Thomas, 2002a).

The four springs and stream are important perennial sources of water for plants and animals. The water is used for habitat and drinking. In addition, Inscription House Spring and Navajo Creek tributary provide water for local stock animals owned by members of the Navajo Nation. The well at Betatakin headquarters supplies water for drinking and other facilities at the monument.

The primary threat to the water quality in the monument is from sheep and cattle that graze the lands surrounding the monument (I.G. Francisco, Navajo National Monument, oral commun., 2001). Manure from these animals could cause nutrient or

bacteriological contamination of streams or the N aquifer. Snowmelt or rainfall runoff could carry manure into streams, and infiltrating and percolating recharge water could carry dissolved material from the manure to the N aquifer. Another threat to water quality is contamination from human tourists that use the monument for day hikes or overnight camping (I.G. Francisco, Navajo National Monument, oral commun., 2001). Bacteriological or nutrient contamination is possible if the humans are not careful about their waste habits.

The author acknowledges the cooperation and assistance of the employees of Navajo National Monument. The guidance and assistance of monument employees were needed to gain access to remote water-quality sites that were difficult to find.

METHODS

The current chemical character and water quality of the key water bodies of Navajo National Monument were determined by collecting water samples and analyzing those samples for the following properties or constituents: (1) field measurements, (2) nutrients, (3) major ions, (4) trace elements, and (5) uranium. Field measurements include pH, specific conductance, temperature, dissolved oxygen, alkalinity, fecal-indicator bacteria [total coliform, fecal coliform, and *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*)], and discharge rates for springs and streams.

Concentrations of bacteria and nitrogen were used to indicate whether or not animal manure or human wastes have affected the water quality of the monument. In addition to animal or human caused water-quality problems, some natural constituents can be harmful to human health when present at high concentrations (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2002). These potentially harmful constituents include some of the major ions, most of the trace elements, and uranium. Concentrations of all the constituents were compared to current U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Primary and Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2002).

Water samples were collected from the four springs and one stream in September 2001, March 2002, and August 2002, and were analyzed to assess water quality, including seasonal variations. Only two samples were collected from Betatakin Spring because

there was a swarm of bees at the spring in September 2001, and it was unsafe to collect a sample. Only one water sample was collected from the monument-headquarters well (in September 2001) because water quality in a deep aquifer typically has little to no seasonal variation; recharge water that carries new dissolved constituents has a long travel time, and there are many opportunities for attenuation of the recharge water.

Water samples were collected according to standard USGS protocols described in several USGS Techniques of Water-Resources Investigations Reports (Friedman and Erdmann, 1982; Britton and Greeson, 1988; Koterba and others, 1995; Wilde and others, 1998a,b,c; Wilde and Radtke, 1998; Myers and Wilde, 1999; and Wilde and others, 1999). All laboratory analyses of the water samples were conducted at the USGS National Water-Quality Laboratory (NWQL) according to techniques described in Fishman and Friedman (1989), Faires (1993), Fishman (1993), McLain (1993), Struzeski and others (1996), Garbarino (1999), and Jones and Garbarino (1999).

The water sample from the Betatakin headquarters well was collected from a faucet near the wellhead and ahead of any water treatment such as disinfection, softening, or filtration. Polyethylene tubing was used to connect the faucet to a splitter that directed the water to a flow chamber housing a multiparameter water-quality monitoring probe, to a filter line, to a whole-water line, and to a disposal or overflow line. Temperature, pH, specific conductance, and dissolved-oxygen concentrations were measured in the flow chamber with the monitoring probe, which was calibrated each day of the sampling trip. Water samples were collected from a filtration unit for analysis of dissolved constituents, and water samples were collected directly from the faucet for bacteriological analyses.

The water samples from Navajo Creek tributary were collected as point (grab) samples. Field measurements (temperature, pH, specific conductance, and dissolved oxygen) were made on-site with instruments that were calibrated each day of the sampling trip. Discharge was measured with a 3-inch Parshall flume.

Table 1. Location, altitude, and hydrologic characteristics of water-quality data-collection sites, Navajo National Monument, Arizona, 2001–02

[N/A, not applicable]

Site name	Latitude	Longitude	Land-surface altitude, in feet above sea level	Well depth, in feet below land surface	Rock formation or aquifer ¹	Use of water
Inscription House Spring	364013	1104911	5,440	N/A	Navajo Sandstone	Plants and animals, stock animals
Navajo Creek tributary near Shonto (near Inscription House Ruin)	364012	1104911	5,440	N/A	N/A	Plants and animals, stock animals
Betatakin headquarters well	364032	1103241	7,230	753	Navajo Sandstone	Public supply
Betatakin Spring	364049	1103218	6,800	N/A	Navajo Sandstone	Plants and animals
Betatakin Ruin Spring	364102	1103202	6,600	N/A	Navajo Sandstone	Plants and animals
Keet Seel Ruin Spring	364534	1102938	6,700	N/A	Navajo Sandstone	Plants and animals

¹Davis and others, 1963.

Water samples from the springs were collected as point (grab) samples. Field measurements (temperature, pH, specific conductance, and dissolved oxygen) were made on site with instruments that were calibrated each day of the sampling trip. Discharge from the springs was measured with a 3-inch Parshall flume or volumetrically.

All samples sent to the NWQL were processed and preserved as described in the appropriate protocols. Samples from all sites were passed through a 0.45-micron filter for analyses of dissolved constituents (nutrients, major ions, trace elements, uranium, and alkalinity). Alkalinity was measured in the field using electrometric procedures. Water samples for bacteriological analysis were collected and stored in sterile bottles prior to preparation for standard plate-count analysis.

WATER-QUALITY DATA

The six sites near Betatakin, Keet Seel, and Inscription House Ruins have a calcium bicarbonate water type that is associated with recharge areas for the N aquifer (table 2; Thomas, 2002a). Water samples from the sites had low dissolved-solids concentrations (94 to 221 mg/L) and low concentrations of trace elements and uranium.

The four sites near Betatakin and Keet Seel Ruins had lower dissolved-solids concentrations (94 to 136 mg/L) than the two sites near Inscription House

Ruin (189 to 221 mg/L). Although water samples were collected about 50 ft apart for Inscription House Spring and Navajo Creek tributary, the two sites had slightly different water chemistry. Samples from Inscription House Spring had a lower concentration of dissolved oxygen and higher concentrations of sodium, manganese, and ammonia nitrogen than samples from Navajo Creek tributary (table 2).

Concentrations of nitrogen and bacteria were used as indicators of contamination from animal or human wastes (U.S. Geological Survey, 1999; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2002). Nitrogen is naturally present in surface water and ground water, so the concentration has to be elevated above the natural concentration to indicate contamination. Data from recent N-aquifer samples from three sites within 20 miles of the monument areas were available for comparison; one sample from 2001 had a nitrate concentration of 1.2 mg/L (Thomas, 2002a) and two samples from 2002 had nitrate concentrations of 0.90 and 4.3 mg/L (Thomas, 2002b). Coliform bacteria are naturally present in the environment and feces, so the presence of total coliforms indicates only possible contamination. Fecal coliform and *E. coli* bacteria come from human or animal fecal waste only, so the presence of those bacteria indicates contamination from human or animal wastes (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2002).

Table 2. Field measurements, and concentrations of major ions, nutrients, trace elements, and uranium in water samples from selected sites, Navajo National Monument, Arizona, 2001–02

[°C, degrees Celsius; $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$, microsiemens per centimeter at 25°C; mg/L, milligrams per liter; $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$, micrograms per liter; <, less than; cols. per 100 mL, colonies per 100 milliliters; e in front of bacteria concentration denotes estimated value; k after bacteria concentration denotes non-ideal number of colonies on counting plate; dashes indicate no data]

Site name	U.S. Geological Survey identification number	Date of sample	Specific conductance, field ($\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$)	pH, field (units)	Water temperature, field (°C)
Inscription House Spring	364013110491101	09–13–01	378	7.6	20.7
		03–28–02	361	7.5	13.5
		08–29–02	361	7.4	16.5
Navajo Creek tributary near Shonto	364015110491700	09–13–01	319	8.2	22.0
		03–28–02	357	8.1	14.7
		08–29–02	353	8.1	21.7
Betatakin headquarters well	364032110324101	09–10–01	189	7.9	13.8
Betatakin Spring	364100110320301	03–27–02	218	8.2	9.3
		08–28–02	206	8.0	12.5
Betatakin Ruin Spring	364102110320201	09–12–01	154	7.9	16.1
		03–27–02	163	8.1	11.7
		08–28–02	158	7.8	14.8
Keet Seel Ruin Spring	364534110293801	09–11–01	162	7.7	14.4
		03–26–02	168	7.8	9.9
		08–27–02	197	7.2	14.3

Site name	Date of sample	Oxygen, dissolved, field (mg/L)	Calcium, dissolved (mg/L as Ca)	Magnesium, dissolved (mg/L as Mg)	Sodium, dissolved (mg/L as Na)	Potassium, dissolved (mg/L as K)
Inscription House Spring	09–13–01	---	36.8	6.2	29.7	1.9
	03–28–02	0.8	45.4	7.2	23.9	1.6
	08–29–02	0.1	35.4	5.7	30.0	1.5
Navajo Creek tributary near Shonto	09–13–01	5.6	39.6	11.5	15.9	5.8
	03–28–02	8.2	49.9	9.4	8.4	2.9
	08–29–02	7.9	49.4	10.4	8.9	3.6
Betatakin headquarters well	09–10–01	7.6	34.1	3.6	4.8	1.1
Betatakin Spring	03–27–02	8.8	30.9	3.0	3.9	1.0
	08–28–02	9.1	32.1	3.1	4.0	1.3
Betatakin Ruin Spring	09–12–01	9.2	24.0	2.1	3.5	1.0
	03–27–02	8.5	25.6	2.2	3.6	0.8
	08–28–02	8.0	25.5	2.2	3.4	1.0
Keet Seel Ruin Spring	09–11–01	6.9	24.2	2.7	3.7	0.5
	03–26–02	7.3	27.0	2.8	3.6	0.6
	08–27–02	5.3	26.4	2.8	3.7	0.5

Table 2. Field measurements, and concentrations of major ions, nutrients, trace elements, and uranium in water samples from selected sites, Navajo National Monument, Arizona, 2001--2002—Continued

Site name	Date of sample	Alkalinity, dissolved, field (mg/L as CaCO ₃)	Bicarbonate, dissolved, field (mg/L as HCO ₃)	Carbonate, dissolved, field (mg/L as CO ₃)	Sulfate, dissolved (mg/L as SO ₄)
Inscription House Spring	09-13-01	169	205	<1	22.5
	03-28-02	179	217	<1	12.0
	08-29-02	162	197	<1	11.7
Navajo Creek tributary near Shonto	09-13-01	156	186	2	17.3
	03-28-02	167	202	1	10.8
	08-29-02	149	180	<1	8.1
Betatakin headquarters well	09-10-01	105	127	<1	3.3
Betatakin Spring	03-27-02	91	111	<1	3.5
	08-28-02	91	110	<1	3.3
Betatakin Ruin Spring	09-12-01	74	90	<1	---
	03-27-02	77	93	<1	1.6
	08-28-02	74	89	<1	1.5
Keet Seel Ruin Spring	09-11-01	86	104	<1	1.5
	03-26-02	87	105	<1	1.3
	08-27-02	81	98	<1	1.5

Site name	Date of sample	Chloride, dissolved (mg/L as Cl)	Fluoride, dissolved (mg/L as F)	Silica, dissolved (mg/L as SiO ₂)	Dissolved solids, residue at 180°C (mg/L)	Aluminum, dissolved (µg/L as Al)
Inscription House Spring	09-13-01	5.3	0.3	16.6	221	<1
	03-28-02	5.2	.2	15.4	219	---
	08-29-02	4.7	.3	14.2	189	---
Navajo Creek tributary near Shonto	09-13-01	9.3	.2	14.1	214	2
	03-28-02	6.3	.1	11.9	211	---
	08-29-02	5.5	.1	14.6	207	---
Betatakin headquarters well	09-10-01	3.7	<.2	15.7	136	<1
Betatakin Spring	03-27-02	3.3	<.1	12.7	121	---
	08-28-02	3.3	<.1	12.6	113	---
Betatakin Ruin Spring	09-12-01	---	---	---	---	<1
	03-27-02	2.3	<.2	11.8	94	---
	08-28-02	2.2	<.1	12.1	101	---
Keet Seel Ruin Spring	09-11-01	1.9	<.2	13.5	100	<1
	03-26-02	2.0	<.1	12.0	109	---
	08-27-02	2.0	<.1	13.0	104	---

Table 2. Field measurements, and concentrations of major ions, nutrients, trace elements, and uranium in water samples from selected sites, Navajo National Monument, Arizona, 2001–2002—Continued

Site name	Date of sample	Antimony, dissolved (µg/L as Sb)	Arsenic, dissolved (µg/L as As)	Barium, dissolved (µg/L as Ba)	Beryllium, dissolved (µg/L as Be)	Boron, dissolved (µg/L as B)
Inscription House Spring	09–13–01	<0.05	1.1	182	<.06	60
	03–28–02	---	1.1	---	---	60
	08–29–02	---	1.3	---	---	110
Navajo Creek tributary near Shonto	09–13–01	.12	2.5	140	<.06	60
	03–28–02	---	1.2	---	---	40
	08–29–02	---	1.9	---	---	40
Betatakin headquarters well	09–10–01	<.05	0.6	194	<.06	<10
Betatakin Spring	03–27–02	---	.4	---	---	<10
	08–28–02	---	.5	---	---	<10
Betatakin Ruin Spring	09–12–01	<.05	<.2	91	<.06	<10
	03–27–02	---	<.2	---	---	<10
	08–28–02	---	.2	---	---	<10
Keet Seel Ruin Spring	09–11–01	<.05	.3	72	<.06	<10
	03–26–02	---	.4	---	---	<10
	08–27–02	---	.6	---	---	<10

Site name	Date of sample	Cadmium, dissolved (µg/L as Cd)	Chromium, dissolved (µg/L as Cr)	Cobalt, dissolved (µg/L as Co)	Copper, dissolved (µg/L as Cu)	Iron, dissolved (µg/L as Fe)
Inscription House Spring	09–13–01	<0.04	<.8	.18	.3	<10
	03–28–02	---	---	---	---	<10
	08–29–02	---	---	---	---	30
Navajo Creek tributary near Shonto	09–13–01	<.04	<.8	.13	1.1	<10
	03–28–02	---	---	---	---	<10
	08–29–02	---	---	---	---	<10
Betatakin headquarters well	09–10–01	<.04	<.8	.04	<.2	<10
Betatakin Spring	03–27–02	---	---	---	---	<10
	08–28–02	---	---	---	---	<10
Betatakin Ruin Spring	09–12–01	<.04	<.8	.03	<.2	<10
	03–27–02	---	---	---	---	<10
	08–28–02	---	---	---	---	<10
Keet Seel Ruin Spring	09–11–01	<.04	<.8	.15	<.2	<10
	03–26–02	---	---	---	---	<10
	08–27–02	---	---	---	---	<10

Table 2. Field measurements, and concentrations of major ions, nutrients, trace elements, and uranium in water samples from selected sites, Navajo National Monument, Arizona, 2001–2002—Continued

Site name	Date of sample	Lead, dissolved (µg/L as Pb)	Manganese, dissolved (µg/L as Mn)	Molybdenum, dissolved (µg/L as Mo)	Nickel, dissolved (µg/L as Ni)	Silver, dissolved (µg/L as Ag)
Inscription House Spring	09–13–01	<0.08	225	.8	<.06	<1
	03–28–02	---	---	---	---	---
	08–29–02	---	---	---	---	---
Navajo Creek tributary near Shonto	09–13–01	<.08	13.8	1.1	<.06	<1
	03–28–02	---	---	---	---	---
	08–29–02	---	---	---	---	---
Betatakin headquarters well	09–10–01	.23	<.1	<.2	<.06	<1
Betatakin Spring	03–27–02	---	---	---	---	---
	08–28–02	---	---	---	---	---
Betatakin Ruin Spring	09–12–01	<.08	.4	<.2	<.06	<1
	03–27–02	---	---	---	---	---
	08–28–02	---	---	---	---	---
Keet Seel Ruin Spring	09–11–01	<.08	.2	<.2	<.06	<1
	03–26–02	---	---	---	---	---
	08–27–02	---	---	---	---	---

Site name	Date of sample	Zinc, dissolved (µg/L as Zn)	Uranium, natural, dissolved (µg/L as U)	Coliform, total (cols. per 100 mL)	Coliform, fecal (cols. per 100 mL)	<i>E. coli</i> (cols. per 100 mL)
Inscription House Spring	09–13–01	2	.15	e500	e190	710
	03–28–02	---	---	e26k	e2k	e3k
	08–29–02	---	---	340	e3k	---
Navajo Creek tributary near Shonto	09–13–01	<1	2.8	540	10	<1
	03–28–02	---	---	390	e44k	e270k
	08–29–02	---	---	e6,600	4,700	3,900
Betatakin headquarters well	09–10–01	49	.59	<1	<1	<1
Betatakin Spring	03–27–02	---	---	e6k	<1	<1
	08–28–02	---	---	e5k	<1	<1
Betatakin Ruin Spring	09–12–01	1	.12	e56	<1	<1
	03–27–02	---	---	36	<1	<1
	08–28–02	---	---	92	<1	<1
Keet Seel Ruin Spring	09–11–01	<1	.21	e6k	<1	<1
	03–26–02	---	---	32	<1	e4k
	08–27–02	---	---	340	41	16k

Table 2. Field measurements, and concentrations of major ions, nutrients, trace elements, and uranium in water samples from selected sites, Navajo National Monument, Arizona, 2001–2002—Continued

Site name	Date of sample	Nitrogen, nitrite, dissolved (mg/L as N)	Nitrogen, nitrite + nitrate, dissolved (mg/L as N)	Nitrogen, ammonia, dissolved (mg/L as N)	Phosphorus, ortho, dissolved (mg/L as P)
Inscription House Spring	09–13–01	0.040	.10	2.2	.08
	03–28–02	<.008	<.05	2.5	.04
	08–29–02	<.008	<.05	2.3	.10
Navajo Creek tributary near Shonto	09–13–01	<.006	.07	.16	<.02
	03–28–02	.009	.33	.09	<.02
	08–29–02	<.008	<.05	.46	<.02
Betatakin headquarters well	09–10–01	<.006	.83	<.04	<.02
Betatakin Spring	03–27–02	<.008	.89	<.04	<.02
	08–28–02	<.008	.92	<.04	<.02
Betatakin Ruin Spring	09–12–01	<.006	.37	<.04	<.02
	03–27–02	<.008	.36	<.04	<.02
	08–28–02	<.008	.38	<.04	<.02
Keet Seel Ruin Spring	09–11–01	<.006	.05	<.04	<.02
	03–26–02	<.008	<.05	<.04	<.02
	08–27–02	<.008	.06	<.04	<.02

Concentrations of nitrate (as nitrogen) in water samples from the six sites were generally low (<0.05 to 0.92 mg/L) and within the range of concentrations at other N-aquifer sites within 20 miles of the study area (table 2). All water samples, except the sample from the Betatakin headquarters well, contained total coliform bacteria. Water samples from Inscription House Spring, Navajo Creek tributary, and Keet Seel Ruin Spring contained indicators of human or animal wastes—fecal coliform and *E. coli* bacteria. No fecal coliform or *E. coli* bacteria were found in water samples from Betatakin Ruin Spring or Betatakin Spring.

Concentrations of analyzed constituents in water samples from the six sites (tables 2 and 3) were compared to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Primary and Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2002; table 3).

No Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) were exceeded. The Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL) for manganese (50 µg/L) was exceeded in the September 13, 2001, sample from Inscription House Ruin Spring. No other SMCLs were exceeded.

Water temperatures at all sites varied seasonally; temperatures were cooler in March than in August or September (table 2). There were small seasonal changes in concentrations of major ions, alkalinity, and nutrients. Bacteria concentrations varied substantially (table 2), but that is typical for water that is exposed to air and contamination sources (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2002). Discharge varied seasonally at Navajo Creek tributary, Betatakin Spring, and Betatakin Ruin Spring (table 4). Discharges were too small to accurately measure at Inscription House Spring and Keet Seel Ruin Spring.

Table 3 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Primary and Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2002) for analyzed constituents in water samples from selected sites, Navajo National Monument, Arizona, 2001–02

[Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) are legally enforceable standards that apply to public water systems. MCLs protect public health by limiting the levels of contaminants in drinking water. Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels (SMCLs) are non-enforceable guidelines regulating contaminants that may cause cosmetic effects (such as skin or tooth discoloration) or aesthetic effects (such as taste, odor, or color) in drinking water. ---, no standard; cols. per 100 mL, colonies per 100 milliliters; mg/L, milligrams per liter; µg/L, micrograms per liter]

Constituent	Units	MCL	SMCL	Remarks
pH	standard units	---	6.5 - 8.5	SMCL is exceeded when pH is below 6.5 or above 8.5
Total coliform bacteria	number of samples	1	---	Not a health threat in itself; used to indicate whether other potentially harmful bacteria are present ¹
Fecal coliform bacteria	number of samples	1	---	From human or animal fecal waste material ¹
<i>Escherichia coli</i> bacteria (<i>E. coli</i>)	number of samples	1	---	From human or animal fecal waste material ¹
Sulfate	mg/L	---	250	
Chloride	mg/L	---	250	
Fluoride	mg/L	4	2	
Dissolved solids	mg/L	---	500	
Nitrogen, nitrite	mg/L	1	---	
Nitrogen, nitrite + nitrate	mg/L	10	---	
Aluminum	µg/L	---	50 to 200	
Antimony	µg/L	6	---	
Arsenic	µg/L	10	---	
Barium	µg/L	2,000	---	
Beryllium	µg/L	4	---	
Cadmium	µg/L	5	---	
Chromium	µg/L	100	---	
Copper	µg/L	1,300 action level ²	1,000	Regulated by a treatment technique that requires systems to control the corrosiveness of water
Iron	µg/L	---	300	
Lead	µg/L	15 action level ²	---	Regulated by a treatment technique that requires systems to control the corrosiveness of water
Manganese	µg/L	---	50	
Silver	µg/L	---	100	
Zinc	µg/L	---	5,000	
Uranium	µg/L	30	---	

¹Under the MCL standards for water systems from which fewer than 40 samples are collected per month, no more than one sample may be positive.

²If more than 10 percent of water samples exceed the action level, water systems must take additional steps.

Table 4. Discharge at selected sites, Navajo National Monument, Arizona, 2001–02

[<, less than]

Site name	Date	Discharge, in gallons per minute
Inscription House Spring	09–13–01	<0.5
	03–28–02	<0.5
	08–29–02	<0.5
Navajo Creek tributary near Shonto	09–13–01	22.4
	03–28–02	76.3
	08–29–02	13.5
Betatakin Spring	03–27–02	0.90
	08–28–02	2.7
Betatakin Ruin Spring	09–12–01	0.76
	03–27–02	0.90
	08–28–02	0.90
Keet Seel Ruin Spring	09–11–01	<0.5
	03–26–02	<0.5
	08–27–02	<0.5

SUMMARY

The USGS, in cooperation with the National Park Service, collected and analyzed water samples from six sites at Navajo National Monument in northeastern Arizona during September 2001 to August 2002. This inventory was part of a nationwide program of the National Park Service to obtain baseline water-quality information in national parks and monuments throughout the United States. The water-quality data and applicable U.S. Environmental Protection Agency MCLs and SMCLs are presented in this report.

Navajo National Monument is within the Navajo Indian Reservation and encloses three ancient Indian ruins in three separate areas. The total area of the monument is 0.56 square mile. Water samples were collected from two springs and one well near Betatakin Ruin, one spring near Keet Seel Ruin, and one spring and one stream near Inscription House Ruin. Water from all the sites is from the N aquifer—a regional sandstone aquifer that is the source of drinking water for most members of the Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe in northeastern Arizona.

Water-quality samples were collected in September 2001, March 2002, and August 2002 from the two sites near Inscription House Ruin, from one spring near Betatakin Ruin, and from one spring near Keet Seel Ruin. Samples were collected in March 2002 and August 2002 from one spring near Betatakin Ruin. One sample was collected in September 2001 from the well near Betatakin Ruin. The samples were analyzed for different sets of constituents depending on the site and the frequency of sampling.

Concentrations of dissolved solids, major ions, trace elements, and uranium were low at the six sites. Dissolved-solids concentrations ranged from 94 to 221 mg/L. Concentrations of nitrate (as nitrogen) were generally low (<0.05 to 0.92 mg/L) and within the range of concentrations at other N-aquifer sites within 20 miles of the study area. Water samples from Inscription House Spring, Navajo Creek tributary (near Inscription House Ruin), and Keet Seel Ruin Spring contained indicators of human or animal wastes—fecal coliform and *E. coli* bacteria.

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